Industrial incentive package for Punjab

1558. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are actively considering to provide industrial incentive package for Punjab State;

(b) whether any specific proposals have been received from the Punjab State Government in this regard; and

(c) what are the relevant details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) The proposal received from the State Government of Punjab for extending fiscal incentives for promotion of industries was examined and was not found feasible as such incentives are extended only to industrially backward States falling under the Special Category which have certain disadvantages in terms of geographical isolation for infrastructure development and overall economic backwardness.

Proposals have been received from the State Government of Punjab for extending financial assistance for upgradation of industrial infrastructure for locations such as Ludhiana, Batala and Mandi Govindgarh. The proposal relating to textile cluster, Ludhiana has been approved.

Finding new areas and strains for coffee cultivation

1559. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coffee Board has not been able to expand coffee growing areas in the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the Coffee Board being unable to identify new areas and new strains of coffee suitable for Indian soils and climate;

(c) whether Government would identify new areas for coffee growing in the country;

(d) whether it is a fact that traditional coffee growers do not want new growers to come into the field; and